Menace of Dengue Fever

*66. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRI ANANTA SETHI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the dreaded dengue epidemic has cost so many lives and is still raging unchecked;

(b) the number of death toll so far;

(c) whether it is a fact that the health agencies are giving a lip service that it will be checked soon than to provide required medicare service;

(d) what is the origin of this disease;

(e) whether Government have prepared any contingency plan to contain spread of dengue; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) to (f) The outbreak of dengue which mainly affected Delhi has been brought under control. During the period upto 20.11.1996 a total 392 deaths in Delhi and 72 deaths outside Delhi have been reported. Dengue is caused by a Virus and is endemic in most countries of the tropics although Dengue outbreaks in India were a relatively less frequent occurrence. The disease is spread from the bite of an infected Aedes mosquito. This mosquito has specific breeding habits and is usually found as a domestic breeder in coolers, pots, flower vases etc. inside and around houses.

The first suspected case of Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever during the current outbreak came to notice on 13.9.1996 in Delhi and immediately investigations were undertaken by agencies like National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD), National Malaria Eradication Programme (NMEP) and National Institute of Virology (NIV).

Important measures taken by the Health agencies interalia included:

— Immediate establishment of systems for the daily reporting of cases and deaths from all major public and private hospitals;

— alerting the State Governments and in particular Delhi Government of measures to be taken for detection of cases, anti-larval operations, fogging, intensification of health education activities and clinical management of patients;

— augmentation of blood component separation facilities in major hospitals and the Indian Red Cross Society;

— supply of all commodities like Pyrethrum extract, malathion, fogging machines.

The outbreak of Dengue was monitored constantly by the specialised agencies of the Government of India who remained in constant touch with the Delhi Government, the local bodies and the major hospitals. A meeting was held under my chairmanship on 9th October where the Health Minister of Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi was present alongwith all the agencies concerned in the Government of India and Government of Delhi. A joint coordination mechanism was established for containment of the outbreak. A review was again taken by me on 15th October and thereafter daily meetings were taken by the Union Health Secretary under my directions so that there was no let up in coordination relating to preventive measures, fogging operations, supply of blood, treatment of cases and assistance to neighbouring States.

Prime Minister personally reviewed the situation by visiting major hospitals and making on the spot assessment about patient care services.

The Ministry if now preparing a contingency plan for vector borne diseases like Malaria, Kala-azar, Dengue. A ca-

lender of events and activities is under preparation for being provided to the State Governments on a State-wise basis, highlighting endemic areas and specific locations requiring attention both from the point of view of prevention, spraying during transmission period and treatment. It is my endeavour to see that not only is this shared with the States, but in case we do not see adequate response from an individual State, the matter is raised well in time with the Chief Ministers so that at all times there is sufficient time for containment and correctives to be taken by individual States. Health is a state subject under the Constitution but it is my deepest concern to see that we step up surveillance and do everything possible to curb the outbreak and spread of diseases by taking preventive action well in time.

"Health Model District" schemes

*67. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) details of the States and the Union Territories where "Health Model District" schemes have been introduced; and

(b) the details of the schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b) No such scheme has been introduced in any of the States/UTs.

Losses of Air India

*68. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1022 given in Rajya Sabha on 23rd July, 1996 and state since when Air India has been incurring losses?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): Air India has been incurring losses since 1995-96.

Traffic Growth of Air India

*69. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: SHRI SAIFULLA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the over all traffic growth of Air India in 1995-96;

(b) the new scheme devised by Air India to woo more global passengers; and

(c) the steps taken to increase aircraft fleet strength to offer additional capacity and introduce more flight schedule?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) The overall traffic growth of Air India in 1995-96 was 16.9% over 1994-95.

(b) Schemes are launched by Air India from time to time to attract passengers. Some such schemes in existence at present are:—

(1) Companion free offer for first and executive class passengers on selected routes.

(2) Frequent Flyer Programme.

(3) Draw Scheme applicable to all passengers who purchase Air India tickets in India for international journey.

(4) Special fare offers on selected routes.

(c) Air India has acquired two Boeing 747-400 aircraft during October-November, 1996 as a part of its fleet renewal plan and to augment capacity. Air India plans to continue renewal of its fleet during the Ninth Plan period.

Filling up of Posts under various category in CGHS, Delhi and Outside

*70. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various posts of paramedical staff under general category, backward classes, Scheduled Castes and